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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/195,080	11/18/1998	KEIKO ABE	FUJA-15.646	3931

7590 12/18/2001

HELFGOTT & KARAS
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
60TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10118

EXAMINER

HARPER, KEVIN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2664

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/195,080

Applicant(s)

KEIKO ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin C. Harper

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 November 1998 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Katsube et al. (US 6,185,213).

1. Regarding claims 1, 5, 9 and 12, Katsube discloses a packet transfer apparatus (Figure 1) for switching and transferring a cell signal among a first node (Figure 2, item 211), a second node (items 221 or 222) and a routing device (Figure 1, item 101) which determines an outgoing route for the cell signal according to destination data contained in the cell signal (col. 5, lines 58-87). The packet transfer apparatus comprises a switch (Figure 2, item 102) for making a connection path among the nodes and routing device, a memory (item 1012) for storing outgoing route data, and a shortcut controller (items 101 and 102) for monitoring the outgoing route data and checking an input cell signal to see if the outgoing route data is equal to the outgoing route data stored in the memory (col. 6, lines 1-18). If there is a match, then a shortcut is formed

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through the switch for transferring a cell signal between the first node and the second node (col. 6, lines 13-18). Further regarding claims 9 and 12, the switches may be frame relay switches (col. 3, lines 1-3).

2. Regarding claims 2, 6, 10 and 13, the first and second nodes and the packet transfer apparatus form an ATM network or a frame relay network (col. 7, lines 9-13; col. 3, lines 1-3).

3. Regarding claims 4, 8, 11 and 14, the output route data includes a destination address and an outgoing port number (Figures 3, 5 and 8-10; col. 8, lines 23-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsube et al. (US 6,185,213).

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4. Regarding claim 3 and 7, Katsube discloses transmitting Ethernet information over an ATM network (col. 7, lines 20-22). However, Katsube does not disclose using AAL5. One skilled in the art would recognize that AAL5 is typically used to encapsulate network data originating from a non-ATM network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use AAL5 in the invention of Katsube in order to accommodate variable-rate and delay-tolerant data traffic (such as IP traffic transmitted over Ethernet).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Han (US 6,009,097), Alexander, Jr. et al. (US 5,909,441 and US 6,064,675), Aho (US 6,185,215), Mori (US 6,172,991) and Katsube et al. (US 6,188,689) each discloses a method of shortcut (cut-through) switching.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 703-305-0139. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays, except Wednesday, from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin, can be reached at 703-305-4366. The fax phone number for Technology Center (TC) 2600 is 703-872-9314.

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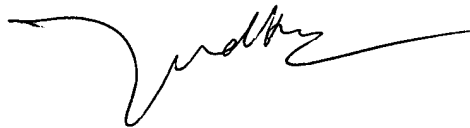
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office for TC 2600 at 703-306-0377.

Kevin C. Harper



December 17, 2001



HUYNH D. VU
Principal Examiner